

OUTGOING TELEGRAM Department of State

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ACTION:

Embassy MADRID 355VIA

During call at Dept Oct 26 to present text GOS cabinet re Cuban situation (Exbtal 515)

on personal and informal basis, stated Spanish Embassy had learned FONMIN Castiella upset at tardiness of notification to GOS of US action re Cuba and delivery of President's speech. He said FonMin had impression Spain not being treated as friend and ally on same basis others known to have been informed earlier.

Chief JUSMG had alerted Munoz Grandes Oct 22 of some aspects of developing Cuban crisis. Munoz Grandes then queried Castiella who embarrassed at having no knowledge. Information to PenOff through Embassy channels not received until much later.

every Dept officer stated USG had intention assure earliest possible information to GOS before President spoke, on same basis coordinated approaches to our other allies. Spanish Ambassador Washington briefed together with NATO, CENTO, SEATO, OAS and other allies. Technical difficulties in transmission message to Embassy Madrid had delayed information to GOS. In response question whether Madrid alone experienced such delay, Dept officer indicated similar delays experienced other capitals such

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Comments:

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such as Lisbon, Rome.

Dept officer said USG fully aware and appreciative GOS cooperation and public support at this difficult time, and deeply regretted delay original information. Garrigues, still on personal basis, said believed it would be very helpful if explanation were given by Ambassador to Fockin.

Dept has kept in close touch with Spanish Embassy (as with other allied Embassies) throughout crisis period and has informed it of pertinent White House statements in advance of or simultaneously with release of such statements. For example text President's letter of Oct 26 to Khrushchev read to Emilio Garrigues about 5 p.m. Oct 26.

Believe you should make use of above to soothe Castiella's feelings while assuring him of genuine US intention to inform GOS in advance of these important decisions and also of US appreciation for GOS expressions of solidarity with US actions.

END

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